



# FOCUS

**SUMMER 2006**

**REPORT FROM CITY HALL**

**SAN BRUNO  
CITY COUNCIL**

**Mayor**  
Larry Franzella

**Vice Mayor**  
Rico E. Medina

**Councilmembers**  
Ken Ibarra  
Irene O'Connell  
Jim Ruane

**City Manager**  
Connie Jackson

**City Clerk**  
Carol Bonner

**City Treasurer**  
John Marty

**City of San Bruno  
Online Address:**  
<http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov>

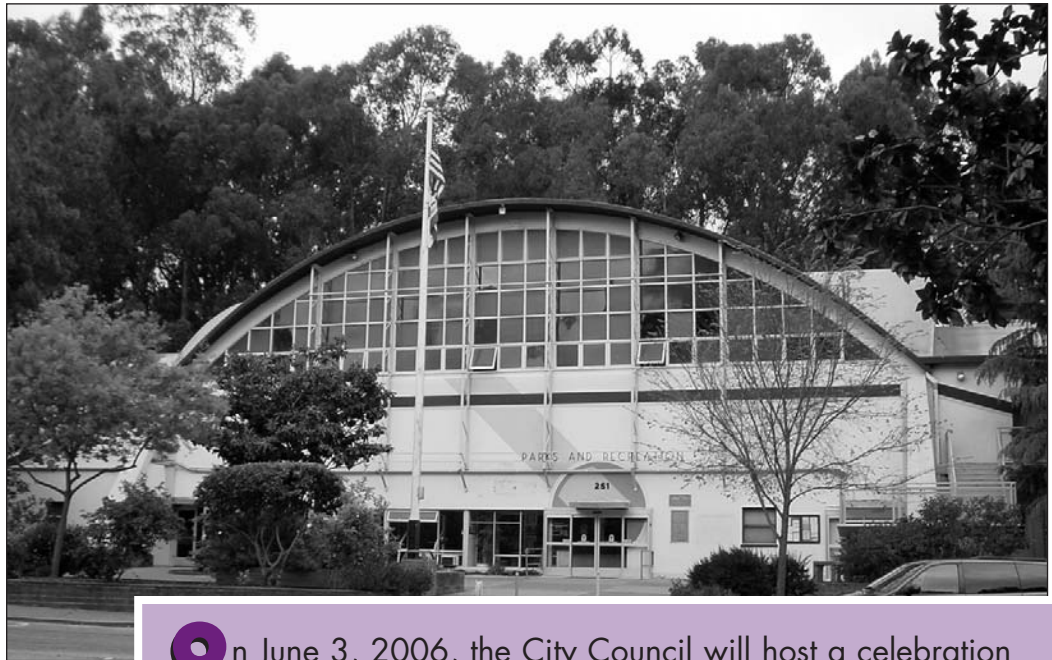
**City Hall Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Community Development  
Counter:** M, T, F 8:00 a.m. - 4:45  
p.m. Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon.  
Thursdays 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

We welcome your comments.  
Please call Terry Jackson,  
Library Services Director, at  
(650) 616-7013, or email her  
at [tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov).

**City of San Bruno**  
567 El Camino Real  
San Bruno, CA 94066

## Our Community is Invited to Honor Our Veterans



On June 3, 2006, the City Council will host a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the City's War Memorial Recreation Center. At that time, the building will be rededicated and renamed the Veterans Memorial Recreation Center. This celebration reflects the City Council's strong interest and priority to express the community's recognition and gratitude for the contributions of our veterans. The rededication and renaming ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Recreation Center in San Bruno City Park. For more information, please call Danielle Brewer, Recreation Services Manager, at (650) 616-7182.

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and **TALES**



### **SIGN UP FOR FAMILY SUMMER READING AT THE SHOPS AT TANFORAN!**

Join us on Saturday, June 17, at 12:00 Noon at  
the plaza in front of Barnes & Noble  
for our Summer Reading  
Kickoff Extravaganza!  
Sign-ups, raffles, and the extraordinary  
Red Panda Acrobats performing at 1:00 PM!



**Join us for our Summer Reading  
Ice Cream Party and  
Kissing Event with  
Cuz' Philburt and  
his pig, Wilburt!**



**When:** Thursday, August 3  
**What Time:** 2:30 PM  
**Who:** Our Summer Readers  
**Where:** On the patio at the San Bruno Library  
**What:** Pig-kissing at 2:30 PM  
followed by ice cream for all!  
*\*While supplies last*



## **Weekly Events**

### **WILD THINGS, INC.**

Start your summer reading with  
some real, live wild things!

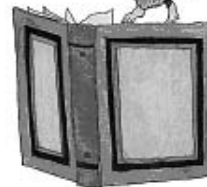
**Tuesday, June 20, at 3:00 PM**



### **BRIAN SCOTT, MAGICIAN.**

Our wildly wonderful magician returns  
with magic tricks galore!

**Wednesday, June 28, at 3:00 PM**



### **HAPPY BIRDS.**

Clap your claws, flap your wings—the birds are coming!

**Thursday, July 6, at 3:00 PM**

### **NORMAN NG, MAGICIAN.**

The magic never stops with Norman!

**Monday, July 10, at 7:00 PM**



### **LIZARD LADY.**

On a scale of 1-10, the Lizard Lady and her friends are  
crests above the rest!

**Thursday, July 20, at 3:00 PM**

### **P&T PUPPET THEATRE.**

Three cheers as The Three Little Pigs  
bring down the house!

**Wednesday, July 26, at 3:00 PM**



*All programs are held at the San Bruno Library*

**For more information, call the Children's Department  
of the San Bruno Library (650) 616-7078.**

## **San Bruno Reaches Out to Help Slidell, Louisiana, with a Fundraising BBQ**

**T**he City of San Bruno will be hosting a barbeque on Saturday, July 29, 2006, to bring the community together in a grassroots effort to offer the citizens of Slidell, Louisiana, relief and recovery assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Please join us on this day from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Beckner Shelter in San Bruno City Park. Tickets for this event are available from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or by calling (650) 616-7058. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

The City of Slidell, with a population of 30,000, is located in southeastern Louisiana, just north of New Orleans and west of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This location, which created an environment for a thriving community and business development, also brought the City of Slidell into harm's way. When Hurricane Katrina struck, the City of Slidell was hit by a storm surge that devastated the majority of the city.

The City of San Bruno joined other cities across the nation in taking action to "adopt" or establish a relationship with a specific community in the hurricane impact area for the purpose of providing assistance. The City Council took action in February 2006 by adopting a resolution establishing an association with the City of Slidell, Louisiana, for the purpose of providing Hurricane Katrina disaster relief. By establishing this relationship, the City Council, while not able to provide direct financial assistance, is encouraging opportunities to facilitate the community's effort to help Slidell. This barbeque is one of many efforts that will hopefully provide continuing, long-term support to help restore and rebuild the City of Slidell.



# Be Safe with Fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**T**he Police and Fire Departments will continue to take a proactive approach to prevent the illegal use of fireworks in 2006. Because the use of illegal fireworks during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 2004 was one of the worst ever experienced by the City of San Bruno and many other Bay Area communities, the Police and Fire Departments worked together with the community on several initiatives designed to address the problem in 2005.

This year City staff will continue to work closely with the “Safe and Sane” fireworks industry, non-profit organizations, and the community as part of the educational campaign, which addresses the safe use of State Fire Marshal-approved fireworks and provides information on the identification of illegal fireworks. The public education campaign includes literature distributed to our residents, public service announcements on San Bruno Cable TV, and outreach to our schools. Additionally, all fireworks booth vendors will distribute flyers and post notices at their stands to educate citizens on the proper use of Safe and Sane fireworks in our community.

In 2006, the Police Department will continue to take an aggressive enforcement posture when it comes to the possession, use, and sales of illegal fireworks. The department will increase patrols during the weeks prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to address all fireworks-related complaints.

Last year, of the 328 calls for service received on July 4, 2005, 233 were received during a five-hour period, and 250 were fireworks-related. There were 73 people arrested during the enforcement period in 2005. On July 4 alone, there were 57 people arrested. Many were charged with violations of State law, resulting in felony and misdemeanor convictions, along with several administration citations being issued for violations of our local ordinances. Nearly all of the arrests resulted in either a fine or time in jail.

The State Fire Marshal-approved Safe and Sane fireworks do not explode or fly in the air. When Safe and Sane fireworks are used in a safe location under adult supervision, they can be enjoyable to watch and safe to use. The San Bruno Fire Department advises you to stay away from buildings and keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby. Do not use any fireworks in the street, and remember that all fireworks are prohibited in parks and on school grounds.

The City of San Bruno wants to ensure the safety of our citizens during this great national holiday. Follow the required safety precautions, and only use Safe and Sane fireworks.



# Home Improvements and

Thinking about doing some construction to enhance the appearance, improve the energy efficiency, or expand the size or functionality of your home? There are some things homeowners should know that can make this experience less overwhelming.



## Your Contractor and You

Hiring a qualified contractor who has a proven track record in performing the work you want completed will minimize potential stumbling blocks during a home improvement project. Here are some helpful tips.

- In California, anyone who contracts to perform work that is valued at \$500 or more for materials and labor must hold a current, valid license from the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) in the specialty for which they are contracting.
- Ask to see the contractor's pocket license and additional identification. The name on the pocket license should be the same as the name of the contractor or the contractor's business name.
- If you contract with someone who is not a licensed contractor, the CSLB will not be able to help you if there is a dispute between you and the contractor.
- It is illegal for one contractor to use another contractor's license.
- Before you sign anything, check the contractor's license on the CSLB Web site to ensure that the license is current and active at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or call 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).
- Check the different contractors' references for the quality of their work, work habits, and whether the client was happy with the final work.
- Get all work to be done in writing, and make sure everything you are paying for is in the contract.
- The law requires a contractor to give you written notice of your right to cancel a contract within three business days of signing.
- Down payments should only be 10% of the contract amount, or \$1,000.00, whichever is less. Never pay the full amount of the contract up-front. Always retain at least 10% of the contract amount as a final payment until the job is finished.
- Require the contractor to provide you with a copy of the building permits he has obtained from the City and signatures of approved inspections before covering or concealing any work.
- Do not pay the contractor a progress payment for work completed or make a final payment until all required City inspections are complete.

To get more information from the California Contractors State License Board, or to report unlicensed construction work, visit [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

## Permitting and Inspections

The City of San Bruno Zoning and Building Codes are designed to provide development consistency and to keep you and others in the community safe. All improvements that change the outside appearance of the building, or increase the square footage of the habitable space, need to be reviewed by the Planning Division to ensure that the design complies with the allowed zoning and is compatible with the neighborhood. The Building Division assists residents in reviewing their ideas and plans for improving their home in ways that meet the required building and safety codes.

# the Building Permit Process

Once a final design plan is prepared, these plans need to be submitted to the Building Division to apply for and obtain building permits before work can begin. Once obtained, building permits expire after 180 days if the property owner or contractor does not schedule and pass an inspection. To keep a permit active, the project must receive a passing inspection once every six months. If the project experiences a delay in the construction progress, and the permit has not yet expired, a one-time permit extension can be requested in writing to the Building Official. The Building Division is allowing a one-time inspection for expired permits when the work has been completed but the owner or contractor has overlooked requesting an inspection that is passable and that results in a final inspection. But, remember, it is up to the property owner and his contractor to complete the inspection process. Permits that have not received a final inspection can present problems when refinancing a home loan or at the time of sale. Lending institutions want all permits and projects completed before funding most loans.

## When Permits are Required

Common improvements that require permits and inspections include remodels, window replacement, exterior door replacements, re-roofs, water heaters, furnace replacements, kitchen and bathroom replacement or remodels, dry rot repairs, siding or stucco replacement, foundation repair, seismic upgrades, fireplace repairs or installations, electrical and plumbing repairs.

## Construction work that does not require building permits consists of:

1. One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, not exceeding 120 square feet (location of the storage building needs approval from the Planning Division).
2. Fences not over six feet high.
3. Movable cases, counters, and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches high (commercial cash register counters need a permit due to ADA requirements).
4. Retaining walls over 3 feet, or 4 feet measured from the bottom of the footing.
5. Water tanks on grade not exceeding 5,000 gallons in size.
6. Platforms, walks, and driveways not more than 30 inches above grade and not over any basement or story below.
7. Painting, papering, and similar finish work.
8. Temporary motion picture, television, and theater stage sets and scenery.
9. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall for residential buildings when projecting not more than 54 inches.
10. Prefabricated swimming pools above grade with less than 5,000 gallons in size.

Separate electrical, mechanical, or plumbing permits are required if such work is part of any type of work listed above.

## Work Done Without Permits – Don't Risk It

When the City of San Bruno is aware that construction work has been done without permits or inspection, it is the City's responsibility to pursue these violations as they pose a potential health and safety risk. The Code Enforcement Division will contact the property owner concerning the violations. The City's goal is to assist in legalizing the work, if possible. Failure to promptly comply with obtaining permits and inspections can lead to fines being levied ranging from \$540 to \$1,000. Additionally, a notice of code enforcement action can be recorded against the property in violation, which can interfere with the sale of the property and refinancing. So, don't risk performing work without the proper permits and inspections. It will save you time, money, and frustration to obtain the proper approvals.



# Be on the Lookout for Sliding Slopes

**T**he hills of San Bruno provide spectacular views and interesting vistas, but as in any hillside community, geologic conditions can present problems, too. In any given year, the winter and spring months can bring landslides to San Bruno. Many residents have asked about the causes of landslides and the warning signs that a homeowner should be on the lookout for.

Rainfall seeps into slopes in the winter rainy season, and sustained rains usually provide the triggering conditions that cause landslides. Some slopes are susceptible to landslides, whereas others are more stable. Other factors that contribute to the instability of slopes include the underlying bedrock and soil, the configuration of the slope, the geometry of the slope, and groundwater conditions.

Three distinct physical events occur during a landslide: the initial slope failure, the subsequent transport of materials downhill, and the final deposition of the slide materials. Landslides can be triggered by gradual processes such as weathering or by external mechanisms, including:

- Undercutting of a slope
- Intense or prolonged rainfall, or sharp fluctuations in ground-water levels
- Shocks or vibrations caused by earthquakes or construction activity
- Excessive loading at the top of a slope, or
- A combination of these and other factors



Once a landslide is triggered, material is transported by various mechanisms, including sliding, flowing, and falling. Landslides often occur along planes of weakness that may parallel the hill slope. In bedrock, planes of weakness are usually beds, joints or fractures. Soils such as silt and clay, which are common in the San Bruno hills, are weaker than rock and commonly have complex or multiple planes of weakness.

Landslides may also result directly or indirectly from the activities of people. Slope failures can be triggered by construction activity that undercuts or overloads dangerous slopes, or that redirects the flow of surface or groundwater.

Conditions that are conducive to landslides become even more of a concern during a continuing storm pattern, such as occurred in San Bruno and the rest of the Bay Area during March and April of this year. Residents should be observant and look for anything out of the ordinary on the hillside near their homes, especially changes occurring on the hillside or in homes, such as:

- any movement on the hillside
- unusual water flow
- signs of bulging or slumping on the hillside
- cracks in your residence or in areas around your home
- trees or power poles that are abnormally out of alignment
- falling or moving fences
- unusual sounds or rumbling

San Bruno residents may find additional information about landslide preparedness online at [www.fema.gov/areyouready/landslide.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/landslide.shtm).


## Concerts at the Rotary Pavilion



### Friday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. in San Bruno City Park

<b>August 4:</b>	24/7 ( <i>Top 40 Hits</i> )
<b>August 11:</b>	The Sun Kings ( <i>Beatles Tribute Band</i> )
<b>August 18:</b>	Nitecaps Blues Band ( <i>Blues</i> )
<b>August 25:</b>	West Bay Rhythm ( <i>Funk &amp; Soul</i> )
<b>September 1:</b>	Shabang ( <i>Caribbean Steele Drums</i> )
<b>September 8:</b>	Dave Crimmen ( <i>Rockabilly &amp; 50's</i> )
<b>September 15:</b>	( <i>To be announced</i> )

# Vehicle Vendors in City Now Need Permits

 outdoor selling from a mobile location is permitted in San Bruno. The City Council recently enacted an ordinance to regulate vehicle vendors—large food trucks and push carts operating in or along the City's streets and sidewalks. New permits will have some requirements similar to those for peddlers and solicitors.

It is also unlawful for any person to operate a business in the City without a business license.

A vehicle vendor works from a vehicle for the purposes of selling, offering for sale, goods or merchan-

dise to the public. Vending vehicles shall include but are not limited to any catering truck, lunch wagon, eating car, van, or trailer.

New Municipal Code regulations controlling vehicle vendors include restrictions on time limits for operating at one location, limiting operations at locations potentially causing safety concerns for pedestrians, especially for children, means for controlling trash and waste, and regulating operating proximity to schools, parks, and playgrounds.

Zoning provisions do not allow

vehicle vendors or peddlers to operate on private property, even with the property owner's authorization or permission.

Any individual interested in obtaining a business license and vehicle vendor's permit should contact the Finance Department at (650) 616-7083. To report a vehicle vendor operating without the required permit or otherwise contrary to the Municipal Code, call the Police Department at (650) 616-7100.

## City of San Bruno New Business Listings for 1/1/06 through 4/30/06

These businesses have opened in San Bruno or had a change in ownership. We encourage you to visit these new businesses and shop locally, as a portion of the sales tax paid is returned to the City and used to provide City services.

Business Name and Type	Phone	Business Address
BLOOM, Women's Clothing	(650)872-9294	1150 El Camino Real Unit 283
BNX SHIPPING, INC., Internat'l Freight Forwarding	(650)588-5100	1053 Sneath Lane
CANDY BOUQUET #4445, Candy Shop	(650)588-5808	1230 El Camino Real Unit F
CASSAUNDRA HERBERT SKIN CARE, Skin Care	(650)871-5059	881 San Bruno Ave W
CHIQUITA'S MOMENTS, Photography	(909)980-2122	1150 El Camino Real
CITY RENT-A-CAR, Car Rental	(650)588-6769	841 San Bruno Ave W Suite 11
COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS INC., Home Loans	(650)615-7021	999 Bayhill Dr Suite 100
DANCE AROUND THE BLOCK, Gifts, Novelties	(650)952-6396	494 San Mateo Ave
EL MERCADO, Sale of Commodities	(530)751-2775	100 Santa Lucia Ave
F2, INC., Software Development	(650)989-6373	1111 Bayhill Dr Suite 440
FATT DOG. Restaurant	(650)533-9820	1150 El Camino Real
LIVEINCHOICES FOR SENIORS, Senior Assistance	(650)483-2838	841 San Bruno Ave W Suite 8
LOS PRIMOS MEAT MARKET INC., Meat Market	(650)589-2708	599 San Mateo Ave
MONSTER DESSERTS, Dessert Sales	(650)583-8722	1150 El Camino Real Suite 208
OCEAN PALACE CHINESE RESTAURANT, Restaurant	(650)873-2862	711 Camino Plaza
PROFUSION FINANCIAL & REAL ESTATE, INC. Loans/Real Estate Transactions	(650)242-8241	900 Cherry Ave Suite 300
Q IMAGE STUDIO, Portrait Studio	(650)952-3544	1150 El Camino Real
RPC CAPITAL GROUP INC., Mortgages	(650)827-8700	1001 Bayhill Dr Suite 180
SALON 725. Beauty Salon	(650)994-5663	725 Camino Plaza
SLOAT GARDEN CENTER, Garden/Nursery	(650)869-6000	675 El Camino Real
SPEEDY SPOT, Grocery Store	(650)359-0255	705 JJeneVein Ave
SWEIS REALTY GROUP, Real Estate	(650)616-4000	1001 Bayhill Dr # 255
THE RACER'S EDGE, General Automotive	(650)872-4000	1161 San Mateo Ave Unit A
THE WHITEHALL CO. JEWELLERS, Jewelry Store	(312)782-6800	1150 El Camino Real Suite 111
TRINI'S, Beauty Salon	(650)225-9465	605 San Mateo Ave
VICTORIA NAILS SPA, Nail Salon	(650)588-2275	121 El Camino Real
WAGGENER EDSTROM INC., Public Relations	(650)266-7000	1111 Bayhill Dr Suite 245
WEISS-ROHLIG USA LLC, Freight Transportation	(650)616-4030	1001 Bayhill Dr

# FOCUS on your questions

## Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

**Q: In the event of a major earthquake, is there a shelter I can go to if my home is not habitable?**

**A:** San Bruno has identified the Senior Center, City Park Recreation Center (now known as Veterans Memorial Recreation Center), all elementary, middle and high schools, Skyline College, and churches as potential shelter sites. Their use after a disaster would be dependent upon the condition of the building and the availability of resources to staff the shelter. Training for Recreation Services and Senior Center staff is ongoing for mass care and shelter needs after a disaster.

**Q: I see that there is Wi-Fi at Tanforan? Who is the provider?**

**A:** San Bruno Cable is proud to provide Wi-Fi Internet access at The Shops of Tanforan. Our Internet customers can enjoy wireless access at the mall! You'll need to sign on with your original email master account and password on your sanbrunocable.com account to gain free access. Also, from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. each day, all users get free access, compliments of San Bruno Cable TV. Access will be made available at other times for a nominal fee of \$3.95/hour, \$7.95/day or \$29.95/month.

**Q: Do you offer a device to record my favorite programs?**

**A:** Yes, San Bruno Cable TV offers a Digital Video Recorder to complement your digital service. A DVR costs \$7.30 a month in addition to any digital package. It replaces any digital box you have, including HDTV models. It is also capable of recording two channels at once! You can record a series or individual programs and store up to 40 hours of digital programming or 10 hours of HD programs. To order, call a customer service representative at (650) 616-3100.

**Q: What options do I have to pay my San Bruno Cable Bill?**

**A:** San Bruno Cable TV offers convenient ways to pay your bill, such as automatic checking account or credit card deductions on the 15th of each month. You can pay online using the "Cable Anytime" link found at [www.sanbrunocable.com](http://www.sanbrunocable.com). Payments may also be dropped off at our office at 398 El Camino Real.

**Q: What types of recreation activities are available for working parents seeking full-day "day-care" during the summer?**

**A:** The Recreation Services Department offers several summer programs for children and youth 5-15 years of age. Summer Day Camp programs have become very popular over the past several years, with several affordable partial or full-day programs available June through August. For the older youth, the Department offers a teen program throughout the summer. For those interested in job training in recreation, the Department offers several volunteer programs at the swimming pool and through our summer camp program. For more information on all 2006 summer programs, please call (650) 616-7180.

**Q: When do I need a grading permit?**

**A:** A grading permit is needed when the excavation involves more than 50 cubic yards of soil. Grading permits can be obtained at City Hall Public Works Department for a base fee of \$105 plus Plan Checking/Engineering Review/Inspection Fee charged at the current hourly rate.

**Q: Am I responsible for maintaining that part of my yard within the right-of-way?**

**A:** Yes. As is the case with other cities, you, as the adjacent property owner, are responsible for maintaining the part of the right-of-way that extends to the face of curb. If you own a corner property, you are responsible for the right-of-way along both streets. The City maintains the gutter and street.

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	877-8889
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Library	616-7078
Neighborhood Improvement	616-7074
Recreation	616-7180
Human Resources Division	616-7055
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/ Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/ Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086

**EMERGENCY**  
**9 1 1**